

SEVEN POWDER MILLS BLOW UP

Some Fifty People Are Killed and Six Hundred More Are Injured.

THOUSAND MADE HOMELESS

Town Destroyed—Company of Indiana National Guard Ordered to Patrol Ruined District.

Fontanet, Ind., Oct. 15.—By the explosion of the Dupont powder works today between 35 and 50 persons were killed, 600 injured, and Fontanet, a city of 1,000 people, wiped out. Where stood a thriving and busy town this morning, tonight there is ruin and scattered wreckage. The dead and more seriously injured have been taken away. Five hundred inhabitants, all more or less wounded remain, to gather scattered household goods and sleep under tents, guarded by soldiers of the state.

Without warning, the powder mills, even in number blew up at 3:15 this morning. They employed 300 men, and of these 75 were at work when the first explosion occurred in the press mill. In quick succession, the glazing mill, the cement mill and the powder magazine blew up, followed by the other mills. In the magazine situated several hundred yards from the mill, were stored 4,000 kegs of powder. The explosion when it blew up was felt 20 miles away. Every house in this town was destroyed. Farm houses two miles away and schoolhouses equally distant were torn to pieces and their occupants injured. Indianapolis, and even Cincinnati, felt the shock. A passenger train on the Big Four railroad four miles away had every coach window broken and several passengers were injured by flying glass.

FOUR EXPLOSIONS.

The mills went up with three distinct explosions, followed 30 minutes later by a fourth even more serious than the others, when the magazines went up. Immediately following the explosion, the wreckage took fire and the inhabitants of the town, who rushed to the rescue of the mill employees, found themselves powerless to aid those burning in the ruins. They worked frantically, in constant danger from possible succeeding explosions, unmindful of their ruined homes.

RUNNING FOR LIFE.

The mills were located one mile south of town. With the first explosion, the employees ran for safety, but most of them were killed or wounded by the quickly following explosions in the other mills. When the heat from the burning mills was so intense that the people of the town had left their homes at the first explosion and were fleeing for their lives, the explosion of the 4,000 kegs of powder in the magazine hurled their homes to pieces and scattered household goods in heaps of debris. Among the buildings totally destroyed in the town were the Methodist and Christian churches, two school buildings, the depot, all business blocks, including a large block containing a large warehouse, 300 homes. In many of them the fronts were blown away, while in others the roofs were hurled into space, the sides collapsed, and the interiors were a mass of twisted metal and wreckage. A Big Four railroad freight train on the track leading to the mills was practically destroyed by the explosion and the wreckage caught fire. Engineer Charles Wells was badly burned and received a fracture of the right leg.

SCHOOL BUILDING DESTROYED.

Three school buildings were destroyed at Fontanet and Coal Bluff, two miles away. All were filled with school children, and every one of them was more or less injured by the collapse of the buildings. A four room school building was torn to pieces and not one of the 200 children escaped unhurt, although none was fatally hurt. A two room school building at Coal Bluff was turned over and collapsed. The teacher and 50 pupils were more or less injured. The force of the explosion destroyed all telephone communication with outside towns and it was with great difficulty that aid was summoned. Teachers and students were taken to the Fontanet and Coal Bluff hospitals. The injured were taken to the Fontanet and Coal Bluff hospitals. The injured were taken to the Fontanet and Coal Bluff hospitals.

STATUE OF ST. CATHERINE.

One in Met. Museum of Art May Have Been Stolen from France

New York Oct. 15.—It is believed that the statue of St. Catherine, now in the possession of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, which was purchased two months ago, once formed a part of the loot of the Thomas gang, which raided churches and priests' houses in France and Belgium. There may be some objects of art in the museum which passed through the hands of the gang, but it is believed to be almost certain that the statue of St. Catherine was the result of an outright or sold by some dishonest ecclesiastical official.

BILL OF LADING.

Uniform One of Interstate Commerce Commission Unsatisfactory.

Washington, Oct. 15.—That the uniform bill of lading which is expected to put into effect on all the railroads of the country, on Jan. 1, next, by the interstate commerce commission is not satisfactory to the commercial interests and two separate bills of lading should be adopted instead, was pointed out at a hearing of these interests before the interstate commerce commission today.

Is to love children, and no home can be completely happy without them, yet the happy through which the expectant mother must pass usually is so full of suffering, danger and fear that she looks forward to the critical hour with apprehension and dread.

Woman's Nature

Mother's Friend, by its penetrating and soothing properties, always nausea, nervousness, and all unpleasant feelings, and so prepares the system for the ordeal that she passes through the event safely and with but little suffering, as numbers have testified and said, "it is worth its weight in gold." \$1.00 per bottle of druggists. Book containing valuable information mailed free.

THE BRADFIELD REGULATOR CO., Atlanta, Ga.

Arrest That Cold

Before it becomes chronic. White Pine and Tar, or Quinine Laxative Tablets, speedily relieves Colds, Coughs, feverishness, hoarseness, loss of voice, etc. You cannot afford to run risks when you can obtain 25c a remedy for . . .

You will appreciate a Hot Drink a our Fountain

DRUG STORE

The Home of Pure Drugs.

112-114 South Main St.

when the explosion occurred. The walls of the building and roof collapsed, but none of the children was dangerously injured. The teacher, Mrs. Susan Bishop of Terre Haute, was struck with a falling beam and hurt.

Immediately after the explosion, the four walls fell outward, and the roof crashed down on the crowded room. Those who had not been injured rushed toward the powder mill. Every one was panic-stricken. At first no one gave heed to the wild exclamations of the little fellows who sought to attract attention to the wrecked school building. Finally a few hastened to the wrecked building. The cries of the little ones could scarcely be heard above the confusion caused by the explosion. Strong arms were soon lifting timbers off the injured bodies and carrying the injured away.

TERRE HAUTE TO RESCUE.

Terre Haute, Ind., Oct. 15.—Hospital and hospital in Terre Haute were thrown open today to care for the injured in the Fontanet powder explosion. Relief trains carrying physicians and supplies were hurried to the scene and the injured were brought to this city. Five of the injured died in the hospital.

While hurrying to St. Anthony's hospital, the city ambulance was struck by a street car and wrecked. No one was injured, but it is feared the shock will be fatal to the explosion victims who were in the ambulance.

Citizens today subscribed more than \$1,000 to the relief fund, and the council session tonight, appropriated \$10,000 to be expended to relieve suffering.

Supt. Nash of the Dupont Powder company, at Fontanet, who was seriously injured about the head and hip, said he knew nothing of the explosion until he was picked up 100 yards from the plant. He was brought here on a relief train. He said:

"Supt. Manahan, myself and Mr. Tellup, a representative of an eastern company, of Delaware, were in the office seated at desks reading the morning mail. This is the last I remember until I was picked up on the hill."

Mr. Nash said the loss would be more than \$100,000.

In the nine years he has been in the plant, 17 persons have been killed. Trouble has been experienced in the past few days with the shaft in the glazing room. Several times the shaft has become overheated and has required the stopping of the machinery. There were \$1,100 kegs of powder in the magazine department, according to Mr. Nash.

PEEL DEAD IN THEATER.

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